Up to March 16, 1968

2,799 U.S. planes were downed in North Viet Nam

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MARCH 19:

Day of Nationwide Struggle Against U.S. Imperialism

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Photo

Enemy tanks attacked by the P.L.A.F.

SOUTH VIET NAM

P.L.A.F. CONTINUOUS ATTACKS

- * G.l.'s under Tight Siege at Khe Sanh.
- * Hard Blows at U.S. Logistic Bases.
- * Many U.S. and Puppet Battalions Wiped Out.

THE armed forces and people of South Viet and continue to attack the enemy in all theat read and a south of the continue of th

ROM January 20 to March
to the FLA.R.

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FL. A.F. A. A. batteries sould off Rhe Sush afrield, sould following the followin

or destroyed 196 planes and helicopters, and demolished many depots and warehouses.

Enemy convoys on the sections of Highways No 1 and 9 passing through this and 9 passing through this and 9 passing through this convergence of the section o

DURING the siege of Hue from February 28 to March 5, 1068, the P.L.A.F. came into contact a dozen times with the U.S. and puppet columns raiding the city and its periphery.

The engagement on March I was particularly fierce. 4 U.S. battalions raided the sectors of Tan Thanh (5km northeast of Hue) and Hien Si (21km northwest of Hue) as well as the town quarters close to Hue. The armed forces and people of the city inflicted upon them serious losses in a violent engagement. In a 10-minute hand-to-hand fight, a self-defence unit of the city wiped out 2 platons of the U.S. First Air Cavalry

N March 4, the armed forces and people of Quang Nath province launched fresh attacks on Da Nang as well as on many district capitals and enemy military bases. The P-L-A.F. guns scored direct hits on important targets, causing big fires. According to pre-limitary reports, the P-L-A.F.

(Continued page 8)

DEATH KNELL OF PUPPET ARMY HAS TOLLED

HE thunderous widespread at tacks lauveled by the Liberaed by the Liberaed by the Liberation Armed Forces
and the insurgent in
population of the insurgent in
since late January have inflicted extremely severe losses
in manpower and material
on the U.S.-puppet troops,
or in a control of these
events are of incalculated of these
events are of incalculation on the
ity for Washington on the
political, military as well as

psychological planes. One of the problems that most torment Johnson and Company is the massive disintegration at an unprecedented rate of the puppet armed forces.

NEW FACTS

A CCORDING to initial statistics supplied by the N.F.L., the number of men and officers having

broken away from the puppet army in the first days of February 1968 has almost equalled the total number for the six years 1961-1966: 200,000 men in six days. Through the length of South Nam, many big units batth. The six days of the completely dislocated or exist only on the muster roll of

(Continued page 2)

DEATH KNELL OF PUPPET ARMY HAS TOLLED

(Continued from page 1)

the puppet General Staff. These are, for instance, the The Infantry Division stationed in the northernmost province of Quang Tri, or the 25th Division quartered about 40km northwest of Saigon. According to the French pa February 14, prior to the N.F.L. attacks in the South Viet Nam towns the Saigon army was estimated at 500,000 men, but today it is believed

to number less than 250,000. The break-down, this time, affects not only the paramili 1961 during the movement of simultaneous uprisings that took place some time after the founding of the N.F.L. Besides the militia, the "civil Besides the militia, the "civil guard" and infantry units of the "Republican Army," many artillery, transport, signal, motorized, radar... units have also been struck by the process of dislocation. Neither have the elite troops been spared. Three battalions of paratroops of the strategic erves have lost two-thirds of their effectives. In My Tho, some battalions of Marines have virtually melted away and 1,200 men of the prov incial police have simply disapincial police have simply disap-peared. More serious still, "desertions" have spread to the qualified technical personnel and even some of-ficers of the General Staff. assigned to the puppet army

Massive "desertions" have not only become a sort of sauve-qui-peut aboard a sinking boat. A new and highly significant fact is that the number of mutinies have multiplied during which the rebelling troops turned their arms against the die-hard officers or the Americans There have been cases of entire units crossing over to the side of the people's forces forces. with arms and outfits. Polit-Then came the second ical organizations of patriotic armymen opposed to the U.S.

their henchmen. All these signs, by their diversity and gravity, con-stitute complete symptoms of mortal disease that has been wearing down the patien since the first days of his

units so far regarded as "re-

A LOOK BACK

effect, the South Viet Nam puppet army was conceived in the General Staff of the French Expeditionary Corps during the "dirty war" of Indo-China 1045-1054. The colonialists ad set up units of "native supplementary troops" com-manded by French officers and non-coms and made and non-coms and made up by adventurers of all stripes and young men press-ganged during raids in the occupied zones. Hated, despised and battered by the decimated and demoralized, these units were hastily taken to the South in the bandwaggon of the French Expedi tionary Corps after the signing of the 1954 Geneva

Taken over by the Americans in 1956 *, they became the famous "Republican Army" placed under the command of "advisers" from the Pentagon and in service of Washington. They were to carry out the "March North" plan so dear to the insatiable U.S. aggressors. But popular opposition to the despotic me of Ngo Dinh Diem quickly gained momentum and aroused upheavals within the aroused upheavals within the South Vietnamese people to a point that the Americans thought it necessary to con-centrate all their efforts on stabilizing the situation. That was the period of the "spe-cial war" the fate of which was sealed at the Binh Gia battle in the last days o 1964. The Saigon regime and its armed forces were on the verge of total collapse. Then came the decision to commit American forces en masse, which was promptly carried out in 1965 after which date U.S. direct aggression has taken the form of a "local war." But what is the role assigned to the worst aggression.

In the first stage, the U.S. Command stationed American troops in clusters at important strategic positions with the puppet troops serving as a cover and a mobile inter vention force. But reality on the battlefield, especially after the debacle at Ba Gia (May at 106s) forced the Amer icans to face the hard fact that the puppet army was no match for the Liberation

stage: batallions and regi-ments of U.S. troops went out to conduct operations side by side with corresponding units of the puppet army during the first "dry-season counter - offensive" 1966). In this way the American Command hoped to give a shot in the arm of the puppet army through the deployment of the fire-power of the expeditionary army and the on-the-spot supervision of U.S. officers. But once again it was bitterly disappointed by the sound thrashings inflicted by the P.L.A.F. The Saigon army, now, weaker than ever before, was held responsible for all these reverses. It was blamed for having not kept military secrets, and above all, for the lack of combativity which incited it to flee whenever things go hot thus disastrously exposing the flank of the American units **. The U.S. Command then thought better not to "involve" its "allies" in

At that point, a new change of strategy was effected: the U.S. put forth its "two-prong" plan, giving the

its own operations.

puppet army the role of a "house mother." Unqualified for "search - and - destroy" mission against the P.L.A.F. - a task which the Americans thought the 400,000 G.I.'s would be able to fulfil -, the puppet army was given the "pacification" task. The American strategists thought that the puppet army, thus immune to the hard blows of the Liberation Army much better equipped than the village or district gueril-las who would be their adversary in their new assignment, could avoid a too

rapid decay. This however, has proved a big blunder that brought about serious consequences. Split into small units scatter-ed in rural areas where the revolutionary spirit has taken revolutionary spirit has taken firm roots for a quarter of century now, the puppet army, which is for the most part composed of peasants, has disintegrated at a still quicker tempo. Westmoreland quicker tempo. Westmoreiand has thus opposed his weakest point to his opponent's great-est forte: the guerilla warfare of the people's revolution. est forte: the guerilla warfare
of the people's revolution.
The result was the defeat
of the second "dry-season
counter-offensive" of 1966-1967. In 1966 110,000 men and officers of the puppet army deserted or were disbanded, according to American

The general uprising and offensive of the people's forces in 1968 took place at the moment when the U.S. Command was effecting a fourth change believed to be suggested by McNamara during his oth visit to Saigon, concerning the way of using the puppet army. Part of this army was to be incorporated into the "integrated units" with U.S. troops. This measure was aimed at making up for the shortage of U.S. troops in South Viet Nam, making the puppet army share the ham-mer blows dealt at the U.S. troops, and deceiving Amer ican and world opinion which was denouncing more vigor-ously than ever the complete inefficiency of the puppet character of American inter vention. The disastrous losses suffered since January 30, 1968 by the puppet troops once again demonstrated that the Americans were facing an insoluble problem in their policy regarding the puppet army which is irremediably doomed to complete disinte

THE LOGICAL COURSE OF THINGS

THE process of dislocation of the puppet army springs, in the first place, from the very nature of this anti-national army which has no roots in the people. In fact, all its generals and the major-ity of its high-ranking officers

On the military plane, the had fought against their own country in the ranks of the French Expeditionary Corps. enormous disproportion of technical means, are en-For all the efforts of the psychological war service, the Saigon army remains without an ideal because mism " has prov ed a stupid subterfuge and the "republican spirit," a hypocritical lie. The hatred

and contempt shown it by the people are profoundly felt among its ranks. The bad cause which it is made to serve is self-evident: defend the interests of the imperialists, the neo-colonialpolicy of the United States and renounce national independence and freedom. The presence of half a mil-

lion G.I.'s cannot but have a grave impact on the morale of the puppet troops. The wanton massacres and devas-tating raid conducted daily all over the country by the Americans have exasperated hatred of the whole peo ple. The depravation of the people's customs, the harm done to the national culture, shown by the occupants for their lackeys, the daily griev-ances, the spiralling cost of living...,all this has aggravated the divergences already very serious between the Yanke serious between the Yankee imperialists and the Viet-namese people and contri-butes to awakening the na-tional conscience of the Saigon troops.

Unable to give the puppet army a palatable political goal and an acceptable ideal, Washington has been relying on the power of the United States to secure its attachment or at least its docility. How ever in the eyes of the world and especially of their South Vietnamese "allies." the American troops themselves have proved unable to with stand the crushing attacks of the patriotic forces. The American soldier in Viet Nam is not fighting as his forefathers did when they defended the independence and freedom of their people. Ordered to fight without an ideal, he is but an unfortunate boy armed to the teeth but ill-prepared and moreover lacking a good com-mand: the strategic and mand: the strategic tactical mistakes commit by Westmoreland and his collaborators are known to the whole world. Thus, the mythical invincibility of the American forces has been American forces has been shattered together with the "faith" in the victory of the "allies" which they wanted to inculcate in the puppet soldier.

To these "subjective" fac-tors are added the "objec-tive" factors that exist in the adverse camp - the P.L.A.F. The latter's strength has been proved both politi-cally and militarily.

The cause which they are fighting for is a just cause. Their political line is the only correct one as clearly dem-onstrated by the recently announced Political Program transformed each combatant Forces into a valiant fighter. The sound and lenient policy of the N.F.L. towards the puppet troops has had prond repercussions in the minds of these strayed per-sons and is irresistibly pushing them back onto the right

joying this unquestionable joying this unquestionable superiorily: they command the strategy and tactics of "people's war" which have been enriched by a quarter of century of experience in armed struggle. The present all-round crumbling of the

Saigon army has been the stunning blows dealt the enemy by the P.L.A.F. and the revolutionary forces.

The total collapse of the puppet army resulting from all the above-cited factors is an inescapable process. The longer the war continues, the more badly the puppet army is battered and the more beating it get the weaker it becomes. The more serious its defeate the quicker its disintegration. The sudden aggravation of its reverses is accompanied by a considerable acceleration of its decay. Such is the law governing this evo-

A MORTAL BLOW TO THE U.S. MILITARY ADVENTURE

THUS, the face of the char iot of aggression of the United States in Viet Nam is sealed: it is heading with broken brakes for the considerations in the present day world force Washington to give a neo-colonialist form to its policy of aggression in Viet Nam. It cannot, without unmasking itself, relegate the puppet army to a secondary role as the French colonialists did after 1945.On the contrary, given the important strategic role of this "Republican Army," the U.S. Expeditionary Corps and the puppet army must form two "interdependent" pillars on which rests U.S. policy in Viet Nam. The dislocation of the Saigon army is a mortal blow at the U.S. neo-colonialist undertaking in its entirety.

· General O'Daniel has been nicknamed by the Western press the father of the " Re bublican Army" in which badges were replaced by Amer-

** An American journalist reported that a U.S. officer once made this pertinent remark: " In South Viet Nam, you'll find fin the occubied zones) only scoundrels. You'll meet men whom you can respect only out of the cities. Why is it that the Viet Cong possess so good men? only thing to deplore is they

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improve-ment in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

VIET NAM COURIER

A THEATRE THAT GROWS | News in Brief WITH THE FIGHTING

R of the U.S. war of de-struction against North Nam. together with artistic ensembles and theatres, the Viet Nam Music, Song and Dance Theatre sent Song and Dance Theatre sent many shock troupes to per-form in the fire line, especially in areas close to the 17th parallel where tough and grim fighting were taking

Making up small roving troupes with light but selected repertoires, actors, actresses and musicians often walked hundreds of kilometres over hill and dale and under fire to bring music, songs and dances to fighters at their combat positions, to road and bridge menders, car driv-ers, young volunteers against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, co-operative farm-ers and others.

While touring the combat zones, their zeal to perform grew. Usually, in Hanoi, an artiste rarely sings more than 3 songs or perfoms more than 3 dance items in a show, and that in perfect stage conditions. But during their tours of the combat zones. most members of shock art troupes treated the audience to a dozen songs and 7 or 8 dance numbers, even though the stage was merely an en bankment, a piece of groun by a gun site or a combat with no other lighting than the moon or oil lamps. They were all ready to perform at any time and for any member of spectators. This field show art has been brought into play in a flexible manner. An alert might sound in the middle of a dance number. Off the lights went

and songs were given instead.

HUNG could not believe that Dung, his younger brother, was no more. But the fact was brutal. In

the evening, his mother came home straight away, her eyes

In front of the embarrass-

ment of Dung's comrades-in-arms, the old woman felt a

wrench What was the mat-

"Seriously injured or dead?"

"He died in action, moth-

er, " said a fighter. "Hit in many parts of his body,

Dung refused to leave his seat and died there."

Wiping her tears, the mother

moment, she handed the

asked to be shown to Dung's grave. Before leaving the en-

oranges which were meant for

Dung to his mates. But now, she had to bite her lips so as

not to burst into sobs. The

light was out for a long time

and now and then she was

VIET NAM COURIER

dry her face pale...

ter with her son

Such tours provided mem-bers of the Theatre with good opportunities to acquaint themselves with different communities, with their heroic deeds. Bright their heroic deeds. Bright examples of revolutionary heroism displayed by our fighters and people were dramatized, in time and vividly, in various dance, song or music items. The original repertoire was enr by spectators. After each shock tour, during which the by spectators. After each shock tour, during which they could put their talents at the service of the fighting and production all the artistes and musicians felt they

Over recent years, the prime purpose of the Music, Song and Dance Theatre has been to keep in close touch with, and serve, the fighting and production in the resist-ance against U.S. aggression, for national salvation. Apart from this, the Theatre has also seen to it that improvement is constantly brought ment is constantly brought in its organizational work, to the skills of its actors, ac-tresses and musicians and to the quality of its perform-

had grown up in many re-spects. By their first hand

experience, they learnt that the great and diverse real-ities had instilled new strength

into their art, ideology and

Young actors and actresses make up a rather great pro-portion at the Theatre. From portion at the Theatre. From this crop of young artistes have emerged new promising talents. They have grown up building and fighting. Each artiste is not only well versed in the kind of art in which

He Takes His Brother's Place

What a difference with the

What a difference with the other night when Dung came home on furlough. She had had to scold her children many times for keeping on

talking under their breath and bursting out laughing.

His eyes wide open in the dark, Hung called to mind

the day when they had been

small children. They knew

their father only through the

words of their mother who

was anxious to bring them

up in the respect of her husband.

power station and a staunch militant, her husband had

spent four years in Son La penal settlement before set-

tling down in that village in the suburbs of Hanoi. During

the French colonialists, he

was an officer in the famous Division 308. He died in the

field of honour in 1953 in the same mining area where he had fought for a decade.

resistance war against

A worker at the Hon Gay

he or she specialized and for which he or she has a gift. Every one of them has struggled to achieve some malification in other to be able to perform when necessary. Thanks to this method of training these shock troupes, though not large in number, have been able to produce substantial and varied shows during tours of the combat zones.

Besides serving the fighting

and production, building up its own ranks and its own repertoire, the Theatre thinks it one of its major duties to give a hand to the mass give a hand to the mass music, song and dance move-ment. This assistance has been rendered not only during tours. Every year the Theatre devotes a certain trate on this duty. In 1967 alone, it dispatched to teams to various localities, branches of service, army units and factories to give expert counsel for a 3-month period. The artistes seized these opportunities to see realities opportunities to see realities with their own eyes, they observed and explored them so as to enrich their ideolog-

The actors, actresses and musicians have also been tempered in the flames of war. Once after a successful counter-attack against U.S air marauders in which number of artistes of the number of artistes of the Theatre-concurrently mem-bers of the self-defence corps -also had taken part an Ack-Ack gunner dedicated this distich to them:

"For half of the planes downed in this engagement The credit must to the superb songsters go."

of treading in his father's steps that, aged 18 in 1966, Hung enlisted in the army. But he felt a great pain when

He was comforted only when

his younger brother reached the draft ages. Now his brother fell on the bat-tlefield.

"To fulfil your duty at your co-operative and local militia unit, is also to fight

militia unit, is also to fight U.S. aggression and serve your country," this piece of advice repeatedly given Hung by the local leader of the Youth Union no longer

carried conviction. He must

join the army again and stand just where his brother

had fallen. His health was

mending. No more worry about the living of his

mother, now a state em-ployee. But after Dung's

death, wouldn't his absence

cause the old woman a great

sorrow? The doubt harassed

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

N an interview granted to Mr. Francois de Quirielle, French Delegate General in Hanoi, D.R.V.N. Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh expressed satisfaction with the attitude of the French Government towards U Thank's recent statement demanding an unconditional end to the bombing and other war acts against the D.R.V.N. In a declaration on other war acts against the D.R.V.N. In a declaration on February 28, 1968 in support of U Thant the French Gov-ernment condemned U.S. aggression and demanded that the U.S.A. unconditionally stop the bombing and other war acts against the D.R.V.N.

N implementation of a decision taken by the Council of Ministers, new elections will be held in April all over the D.R.V.N. to choose new People's Councils and Administrative Committees in provinces, towns and autonomous regions for the 1968-1971 term of office.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

N 1065-67, more than 200 undertakings were put into N 1965-67, more than 200 undertakings were put into operation, which turned out daily consumption goods such as sugar, fish sauce, tea, paper, earthenware chinaware, wines, etc. In 1967, total value of delivered goods went up 2.5 per cent compared with 1965 and 3 per cent compared with 1965.

N the Quang Ninh mining area, the Coc 6 Colliery ful-filled the targets of the state plan for the first quarter of 1968, 42 days ahead of schedule.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

OMPARED with the school-years 1955-56 (immediately after the first war of resistance) and 1964-65 (at the condition of the co

N Quang Binh province, which borders on the 17th parallel, cultural activities continue to develop in spite of continual American bombing and shelling: Many underground exhibition and lecture halls have been built. underground exhibition and lecture halls have been built.
In 1967 the number of books in public libraries increased
70 per cent compared with the previous year, and that
of radio sets 300 per cent. At present, almost all villages
and agricultural co-operatives in the province have each
an amateur artistic ensemble.

N Hai Phong a painting exhibition has opened recently. Exhibits include oil and lacquer paintings, gouaches, water-colours etc. picturing the people's struggle and economic, cultural and social activities.

mother.

What a joy, what a pride! The old mother shared his feeling. After bowing her head in her son's memory before his grave, she had expressed to the company commander the hope that Hung would be allowed to take the place of his younger brother.

Some sort of welcome was

arranged for Hung's arrival at the encampment; but it could not come off; an engagement took place and Hung had to rush toward an A.A. battery, the one previously manned by his brother.

In an A.A. unit defending Hanoi, a fighter has thus replaced his younger brother killed a few weeks before.

brother.

meeting was held on March 15 in Hanoi. by the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, the Permanent Mission of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation in North Viet Nam, and the Viet Nam Asian-African Solidarity Committee to mark the 18th anniversary of the Day of Nationwide Struggle Against U.S. Imperialism and welcome the Week of International Solidarity with

It was attended by representatives of various political parties, mass organizations, nationalities, religious communities, the armed forces and people of all strata in Hanoi

Addressing the meeting, Hoang Quoc Viet, member of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee and member of the Presidium of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front Central Committee said:

"This year, Viet Nam's Day of Nationwide Struggle Against U.S. Imperialism has become a day of worldwide solidarity with Viet Nam against U.S. aggression. In response to the call of the Tri-Continental Committee of Support for Viet Nam, a Week of International Solidarity with

Viet Nam is being observed in many places around the world. This is a great stimulus for us. We warmly welcome the Week of International Solidarity with Viet Nam; we thank the peoples in the fraternal socialist countries, Asia, Africa and Latin America, and the progressive people the world over including progressive people in the United States for their valuable support and assistance to the Vietnamese people's resistance against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

"Eighteen years ago, armed only with their hatred for the enemy and their determination to fight and to win, our compatriots in the Saigon-Cho Lon area succeeded in forcing U.S. warships and aircraft to withdraw from our country. We firmly believe that today, with the one-minded bloc of our 31 million people, having powerful force in all aspects and enjoying the strong sympathy and support of the peoples all over the world, will certainly inflict complete defeat on the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen to liberate the South, defend the North and ultimately reunify our country."

Speaking next, Mme Neuven Thi Luu, Assistant Secretary of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front Central Committee and Secretary General of the Viet Nam Asian-African Solidarity Committee, said:

"The U.S. imperialists are persisting in their aggressive war and have committed monstrous crimes. The Vietnamese people have unmasked U.S. 'neo-colonialism', defeated the 'special war' and are defeating the 'local war' of the U.S., chieftain of the imperialist marmonaers"

Praising the victories of the Vietnamese people. especially of the South Vietnamese people, since early this Spring, Nguyen Thi Luu stressed:

"The tremendous and all-sided victories recently won by the South Vietnamese people have brought about a new situation in which the U.S. aggressors are driven further into a defensive posture and impasse and cannot escape complete failure."

The meeting unanimously adopted a resolution condemning the U.S. imperialists for obdurately continuing their dirty war of aggression in Viet Nam and at the same time raising a ballyhoo about their "desire for beace."

The resolution reiterated the determination of the Vietnamese people to completely defeat the U.S. aggressors so as to liberate the South, defend the North and reunify the country.

SAIGON the Indomitable City Tepression with all its blind brutality, all that did not work. Saigon scorned the carrot and turned up its brutality, all that did not work. Saigon scorned the carrot and turned up its brutality of the carrot and turned up its brutality. The carrot and its brutality all that did not carrot and turned up its brutality all the carrot and turned up its brought deep into Usy to carrot and turned up its brought deep into Usy to carrot and turned up its brought deep into Usy to carrot and turned up its brought deep into Usy to carrot and turned up its brought deep into Usy to carrot and turned up its brought deep into Usy to carrot and turned up its brought deep into Usy to carrot and turned up its brought deep into Usy to carrot and turned up its brought deep into Usy to carrot and turned up its brought deep into Usy to carrot and turned up its blind the carrot and the carrot and turned up its blind the carrot and the carrot and turned up its blind the carrot and the carrot and turned up its blind the carrot and t

be it electronic

E IGHTEEN years ago, in the thick of French occupation, the Saigonese were the first to raise the

its footsteps. The two

lived, traitors. A massive

aid, weapons galore, a body of advisers in increasing

R ECENT events in South
Viet Nam, and especially in Saigon, ially in Saigon, throw the "Hawks" of the Pentagon and the White House into dismay. The carefully cultivated myth about an American big stick that imposes its whims on the entire world has sadly been exploded. The Johnson-ian ranting, turning pure braggadocio, can hardly imess people any more except e more naive ones.

banner of struggle against U.S. intervention. On March 19, 1950, led by Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, now Pres-ident of the N.F.L., a mam-The fortress of the Embassy taken by storm, the "Independence Palace" assaulted, Radio Saigon destroyed, all the H.Q. of the moth demonstration, in fact, shook the city with the sound saulted, Radio Saigon de-stroyed, all the H.Q. of the puppet army and police de-molished, the Inter-Arms General Staff overrun, Tan Son Nhat airfield taken and U.S. destroyers, prowling off Saigon for a show of strength, dared not stay any longer in face of this effervescence. because in the city, Jeeps were being overturned and re-taken under the running fire of the P.L.A.F., whole the running the stars-and-stripes torn pieces. Already in Du quarters swept clean of col-laborationist vermin, the gendarme is so soundly thrashed that it is difficult the stars-and-stripes torn to pieces. Already in Dulles' time, our compatriots shouted "Down with U.S. interven-tion!" and "Yankee, go home!" This was clear, outright, sharp and crackling as a lash of whip. Yet, the White House gave too much heed to the cries of its simpoderate stomach to take thrashed that it is difficult for Westmoreland to present himself again as a dashing conqueror before Congress. While crying up victory, the American C-in-C makes a lowkey plea for an immediate reinforcement of 200,000 men! A new expeditionary immoderate stomach to take notice of the warning. After the ouster of the corps, one might as well say.
Definitely, the sense of the
ridiculous of the sabre-rattling Yanks has been lost French colonialists in 1956, the Americans were thus installed as masters in Saigon, behind the shields of no-torious, more or less short

somewhere while flying over That Johnson and Company have chosen Saigon as a of advisers in increasing springboard for attack and last refuge furthermore proves by the armful, a ruthless

the Pacific

would be crossing. Thinking that this might serve as an example, Jonson set fire to the powder-keg. their utter ignorance of facts. They had better brush up their history. They will learn that Saigon has never yielded to any big warrior,

Things got worse with the massive arrival of G.I.'s at the beginning of the "local war." The arrogance of the occupation troops served as an eye-opener for even the personnel and officers of the worset administration and puppet administration and army as to the mechanism of U.S. neo-colonialism, and laid bare the felony of the swindlers of the Thieu-Ky type. A blaze of the patriotic movement set Saigon in efferwiscence again. effervescence again.

Workers of the VIMITEX, dockers, taxi-drivers, and other manual workers by periodical, sometimes bloody, strikes, kept up the sacred fire of the Revolution. Vigilant college youth took to the streets, angered by the public execution of their mate, student Le Hong Tu; the Buddhists whose heroic the Buddhists whose heroic struggle joined the one waged by all the other strata of the people in the movement of simultaneous uprisings and precipitated the down-fall of Ngo Dinh Diem in 1903, added their angry vices to the protest chorus. Malla Indulged in self-im-corners to say for a stree-corners to say for a stree-ment, seeding up the col-ment. corners to say No to ensiave-ment, speeding up the col-lapse of the Diemist dic-tatorship. The "long-haired army" stepped up its attacks. Those of the intellectuals who up to then had adopted a wait-and-see attitude also participated in the fight

Contrary to the expecta-tions of its promoters, Yankee terror in the end brought about the unanimity of the patitotic forces. The memory any ships under U.S. armour any ships under U.S. armour about the unanimity of the patriotic forces. The memory of professor Le Quang Vinh sentenced to death, of his colleague Nguyen Thi Dieu murdered in her prison-cell, of the woman pharmacist Pham Thi Yen atrociously tortured, of innumerable physicians, journalists, writers and artists languishing in jail, shows that neither women intellectuals are spared. A struggle, now smothered, now explosive, has been shaking Saigon all the days of U.S. occupation. Winning over all sections of the population, it has become an arban movement of unprecedented violence. Street hawkers, barmaids and even children themselves brand the aggressors as gorillas.

In spite of the Honolulu embraces and the election farce in November 1967, Thieu and Ky live secluded, universally scorned. Seeded and licensed traitors, but prudent and without illusion, they

cover, and squabbling for the smallest privilege handed out by Washington, these peculiar "president" and "vice-president" of the puppet Republic of Saigon wallow in the slough of Despond, aware that their days are numbered. The review of the troops dispersed in panic by the P.L.A.F. mortaring, the pounding of the "Independ-ence Palace" the very day of the presidential inauguration, to say nothing of other less spectacular misfortunes, have irremediably ruined these sad wrecks. If the U.S. "Hawks" are still rubbing their beaks, it is because the rapacious birds are fond

(Continued page 8)

. " Long - haired army": women's units waging political struggle.

What Happened in Saigon on March 18 and 19, 1950

March 18, 1950: Two U.S. destroyers, the Sticken and the Anderson arrived at Saigon port to show the flag, together with aircraft from an aircraft carrier operating off the South Viet Nam coast, thus marking U.S. outright intervention in the Indo-Chinese war of the French colonialists.

March 18, 1950, night: South Viet Nam people's armed forces attacked French barracks near the of the American ships.

March 19, 1950: Over 500,000 demonstrators march march 19, 1990: Over 300,000 Genioustrators march past the U.S. Embassy, and set fire to American cars. Headed by Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, the present N.F.L. President, and other well-known intellectuals and personalities, they displayed the yellow-star-red flag chanted the slogans "Down with U.S. imperialism "Yankee go home!".

As a result of this mammoth demonstration, the U.S. ships sailed off, giving up their abortive attempt,

March 19, 1950-has been written down in history as the Day of Nationwide Struggle Against U.S. Imperialism.

THE Americans are with us. Yes, why not? This has become more, and more in line with the logic of things.

We are finding ourselves at a decisive hour. We have just probed the American aggres-sive forces and received confirmation of what we thought about them. We shall get the better of them, certainly on condition that we are ready to pay the necessary price. That is why we are celebrating this year with particular fervour the anni-versary which falls on March rg: that day in 1950 was one of the most significant subjects for pride on the part of Saigon city. Isn't Saigon, the Saigon of the popular masses, our Saigon, going to draw the logical conclusion from the fight which was waged that day against American imperialist aggression?

Who could help thinking of this at a time when it has of this at a time when it has become clear, in spite of the ranting of a Westmoreland and the buffoonery of a Nguyen Cao Ky, that American aggressive imperialism and its native valets have lost on the whole front? All American and puppet demagogic measures have misfired, and on the military plane, the balance of forces has been tipped in our favour. World opinion has been voicing ever nore explicit condemnation of the patent crime of aggres sion against our people, and, while the many friends we have in the world are re-doubling their efforts to helr us come out on top, ever broader sections of American society itself have demanded that the Johnson administra-tion should put an end to this war with no way out which troubles their con-

The Vietnamese people, fired by the brilliant success of the Lunar New Year show of strength, are entering the present phase of struggle with increased confidence. This does not mean that we have any illusions as to the sacrifices that we still have to endure. But we know, and say so, that victory is already ours. And while we rely first of all on the courage of the sons and daughters of our nation and the selflessness of our people to triumph the aggressors, we value any support and en-couragement to our defence effort, wherever it may come

And thus, whenever we proclaim our confidence in victory, we also express our combatants and people's friendship and gratitude to peoples and men of good will all over the world who have, all over the world who have, in one way or another, condemned American crimes and approved of our resistance aggression. And that is why, in this crucial moment our fight against the American imperialists, we think that the Americans are with us. Our American friends like to remark that never before has the United States experienced such political and moral turmoil made such an effort to ponder over great national and international problems, such an attempt to impose the people's will on the government. And they do not hesitate to attribute the credit for this healthy awakening of democratic feelings in their country to

THE AMERICANS ARE WITH US

our struggle for independence and freedom.

Of course, we could, without any false modesty, agree with them that we have played a part in the present intense activity in American political life. But could one fail to trace the rowerful popular. powerful popular movement in the United States to the persistent strength of American revolutionary and democratic traditions themdemocratic traditions mem-selves? It was not by accident that our Pro-clamation of Independence in September 1945 started with a quotation from the American constitution. We American constitution. We know that modern America was founded by courageous people who preferred exile to servitude, that the most popular names there have mained those of Washington and Lincoln, and we think

Now the Americans know that we want only independence and freedom. Should America be the one to prevent us from getting them? We also want peace: who can aspire to peace more ardently than a people who have been deprived of it for nearly a quarter of a century now? It is certain that we cannot compromise on our fundamental national rights. But we demand

meaning.

our blood, than the right to live in peace in our own land and to settle our own affairs.

They also know that make a distinction between the imperialists who under the cloak of the American flag are attempting to reduce flag are attempting to reduce us to slavery, and the American people for whom we feel only esteem. We sincerely feel sorry for those young Americans who, de-ceived by their government, are getting killed by the ten of thousand far from their native land, without any plausible reason. As to the star-spangled banner we are not the ones who are damaging it; those who are doing so are those who are dragging it in the mud and blood of an unjust war, forgetting the while the that this is not without voice of the fatherland and that of experience. Isn't "Victory national anthem: come it must - If the cause is just. "? The unjust war waged

against Viet Nam and the combined efforts of the American people and our own have thus begun to seriously put out of order the formidable machine of misinformation used by Mr. Johnson against the peoples, the American peo-

ple in the first place. And we have been pleased to see that the more it gets out of order, the more Americans

with the artists who

more powerful waves

wage its war. Open letters, petitions, teach ins, mass demonstrations — the Amer-

ican people have used all forms of struggle. For this

war has become more and

more odious to them. It has

proved disastrous for the in-

ternational prestige of the United States, and even for American honour. On the

internal plane, it is ruinous: plans for the Great Society

have already been shelved,

the people's savings are de-preciated by inflation and taxes are being increased.

What is even worse, because the war is already lost, under

the pretext that the expedi-

at all costs, American liberties

are being exposed to a mortal

peril. But who is exposing

American soldiers to danger

if not the Johnson adminis-

ican people, in complete agreement with ours, have

agreement with ours, have been telling it, every day,

tration itself? And the Amer-

tionary corps should be saved

the best way to save them from such dangers: "Bring our boys home now!" A military solution? Yes, if you like. That one. The fact that the military have We keep in our memory the moving sacrifices of Helga Herz, H. Morrison and others. adopted a definite position seems to us full of meaning: soldiers have deserted by We sympathize with the young people who have burnt their draft cards in public, hundreds ; recent news reports told us that Air Force Captain Dale Noyd had preferred to go to jail rather than parin their songs stigmatized the White House or praised the courage of the peasant-soldiers of the N.F.L., with ticipate in the training of airmen who would go and drop bombs on Vietnamese villages; Professor George Zistiakowski of Harvard Uni the Negroes, women, intellectuals, students, workers, versity, a noted specialist in military science and techwho in successive and ever mounting assaults on the myths and lies behind which nique, has resigned his job as adviser to the Pentagon. the Johnson administration has been taking cover to

In these days of impetuous struggle for peace, at the same time as we learn about the decision taken by the Tri-Continental Organization to launch a week of action for an end to the Viet Nam war, from March 13 to 19, reports from America tell us that ten days of uninterrupted demonstrations have been planned and announced. All friends of Viet Nam share our joy at the American people's combativeness and join us in wishing their campaign the best of successes and the most happy progress. As for us, our people will strive to fulfil with honour their task in this common struggle for a better future, and will do their best to deserve their friends' confidence.

Prof. PHAM HUY THONG Vice Chairman of the Viet Nam Committee for the Defence of World Peace, Member of the World Peace Council.

BARRICADES IN SAIGON STREETS

THE tank shivered, veered, spewed smoke, then stopped dead, A N.F.L. man dashed out quick as lightning and fired a burst of his submachinegun at the last G.I. in the vehicle. Other Liberation armymen rushed to the scene from neighburing scene from neighbouring houses. They were followed by people of various ages and attires.

and attres.

They were carrying pieces of furniture, empty oil drums, cement bags, pieces of timber, with which they built two barricades across the street,

barricades across the street, with the carcass of the tanks as the front shield. Noontime. The sun was beating down fiercely. The street looked deserted. A lull that portended a new storm. The men felt hungry. One said, "I was in such a hurry this morning I took only two bowlfuls of rice... I am starving now!" One of his friends chuckled: "Serves you right! Why did you turn down the sandwiches those schoolgirls offered you? Why should you be such a 4mid that portended a new storm. should you be such a simid soul?" The group broke into laughter. A young girl who was busy putting her gunsight in order in a nearby emplace in order in a nearby emplace-ment said aloud: "The peo-ple left plenty of food for us before evacuating their places. Why should we refuse to touch it? We're fighting

young man in specs opened a packet of cigarettes and passed them around, "Have a smoke, boys..."

A man with a Chinese accent who was lying on his stomach some distance away, said, "You come over, comrades, and share our meal later in the day."

Suddenly the girl sprang to her feet and took cover behind a tree. A small figure appeared in the distance, headng for the harricade, weaving his way through the obstacl with things looking li grenades at the end of his swinging arms. The Chinese worker lifted his head to scan the approaching figure. "Don't shoot, "he cried out. "It's Old Nam's son!"

Now everyone could see a young boy with chubby cheeks, about 13. His dark, intelligent eyes looked attentively at the tank carcass and the barricade, then winked mischievously at the men ed mischievously at the men.
"I am bringing you a lot of
goodies: beer, sandwiches...
From the uncles and aunties
in town..." he called out.

A man hugged the little boy and stroked his plumb cheeks. Hai —that's the boy's name - took his submachine gun and said pleadingly:
"Do let me fire a round,

was interrupted by a clatter of machinegun in the distance. All the guns on the barricade immediately pointed in that direction. The girl said to the little boy in serious voice, "Get into cover, quick!

Bullets ripped the surface of the road. The anti-tank fun was moved to the left. A man stood tiptoe to observe. Bullets whizzed over his head and hit some cement bags.
As he ducked for cover, a ringing voice called from a balcony:

"Look out, some bastards have slipped into the drug-store and are firing from there!". Little Hai was calling from the second storey of house nearby. Grasping firmly the wooden rail of the balcony, he craned his neck and screwed his eyes on some distant object.

"Get down, you kid!" the bespectacled young man was shouting. His friends looked up at the child with a wor-ried expression on their faces. ried expression on their faces.

A burst of submachinegun broke window - panes very close to Hai, who didn't turn a hair. The clanking of caterpillars was heard in the distance. Hai shouted: "Tanks! Tanks coming... Two of them... Infantry

behind... Shoot at them, It was then that he was spotted by men in the drug-store. They fired a volley at him. From the barricade, an anti-tank rocket, whizzed forth; it hit the drugstore forth; it hit the drugstore and silenced the gun. On the balcony the little boy had staggered: one of his hands had left the railing, but the other still grasped at it. He refused to leave the lookout job which he had assigned to himself. Some of the men job which he had assigned to himself. Some of the men were about to rush up to him he had been as to the he cannon blasting. The one in the lead was almost imme-diately hit by a B-40 rocket, which broke its track and from its side, and the Amer-ican infantry men behind beat a hasty retreat. They were caught in a deadly fire felled many of them. The

felled many of them. The other tank turned tail. From the barricade, a man rushed to the house, up the stairs, and carried Hai down on his back. Blood from a wound in the child's left arm dripped on the back of his shirt. The little boy's face was pale, but a contented smile was on his lips. The girl blinked and whispered : "What a kid! A real Ga-vroche!".

WARSAW TREATY CONFERENCE News from CAMBODIA ISSUES PRO - VIET NAM STATEMENT

THE Conference of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty-member countries held on March 6 and 7, 196 in Sofia (Bulgaria) unanimously approved a statement on the "threat to peace resulting from the widening of Amer ican aggression in Viet Nam.

The statement sternly condemns the U.S. imperialists' war of aggression in Viet Nam, their acts and schemes aggressors of continuing war escalation and their barbarous crimes. It also condemns and warns the reactionary authorities in Thailand South Korea, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, West Germany, who have sent mercenary troops to Viet Nam to help the U.S. imperialists in their war of

U.S. IMPERIALISTS ARE MAKING

FEVERISH WAR PREPARATIONS

AGAINST KORFA

the

Jung Hi stooges are making

feverish war preparations, thus directly threatening

pardizing the peace in Asia

and the world and flagrantly

violating the 1953 armistics

agreements and international

D.P.R.K., seriously

security of the

aggression there. Highly appreciative of the recent great victories of the South Viet Nam people and armed forces, the statement affirms that these victories herald a new stage of the liberation struggle of the Vietnamese people. attacks mounted by the Liberation forces with the active support of the people of South Viet Nam have shaken to its foundations the whole American-Saigon war system. This offensive again eloquent ly testifies to the unity of the full responsibility for prolongpeople and the N.F.L., the scople and the N.F.L., the ing the war in Viet Nam-eroism and bravery of the The participants in the Con-

THE U.S. imperialists

out more and more-serious

acts of war provocation

against the Democratic Peo-ple's Republic of Korea. They have deployed the Third

Mobile Fleet off the ports of

Korea, sent to South Korea

military demarcation line. More serious still, they recent-

ly sent the intelligence ship

waters of the D.P.R.K.

more bomber and fighter planes and attacked many posts north of the

and the Pak Jung Hi clique have unceas ingly been carrying Vietnamese patriots, revolutionary strength of the liberation movement, which expresses the national aspirations of the people and their determination to drive the aggressors from Vietnamese

The statement warmly hails the victories of great inter-national significance of the Vietnamese people in the struggle against the U.S. and stresses, These are an important contribution to the struggle for peace, independence, democracy, and socialism of the countries of the world socialist system and of all

The participants in the Conference once again declare that they resolutely support the four points of the Government of the D.R.V.N. and the Political Program of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the statement of the D.R.V.N. demanding that the U.S. unconditionally stop the bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N., strongof the Government of the ly condemn the U.S. ruling D.R.V.N. " circles' double talk aiming at covering U.S. war escalation. They make it plain that the U.S. imperialists must bear

expresses the Conference's firm conviction that "the Vietnamse people will win, and their just cause vill triumph."

made clear in his March o 1968 statement, that the D.R.V.N. "fully supports the correct position of the Gov-

ernment of the Democratic

People's Republic of Korea

spokesman of the Foreign

Ministry of the D.P.R.K. The

Government of the D.R.V.N.

strongly insists that the U.S.

all acts of war provocation against the D.P.R.K., with-

draw American troops from South Korea, let the Korean

people settle themselves their own affairs without foreign interference and immediately

dissolve the so-called 'U.N

Commission for Unification and

February 27, 1968 of the

ference resolutely demand that the U.S.A. stop immediately, permanently and unconditionally the bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N., put an end to its aggression in South Viet Nam, withdraw U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam and respect the right to self determination of the Vietnamese people.

Reiterating their determination to increase support to the Vietnamese people "who are standing in the front line of the armed struggle against the U.S. imperialist aggressors," the participants in the Conference reaffirm in their statement that they will continue to offer the Vietnamese people "full support and all necessary aid, especially in the spheres of economy, defence, technology and specialists... The Warsaw treaty-member countries declare their readiness to allow their volunteers to go to Viet Nam at the request

The statement finally

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk:

The United States Can by No Means Justify or Invoke Extenuating Circumstances for Its Aggression

SAMDECH NORODOM foreign interference.
SIHANOUK, Head of State of Cambodia, has just
The destruction Nam and the massac granted an interview to the Bulgarian weekly In the World, the Bulgarian News Agency BTA reported on March 9, 1968. Samdech Norodom Si-hapoule declared: anouk declared:

"We fully supports the four-point programme of the D.R.V.N. Government and the five points of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. - they alone can restore peace in Indo-china. Such a peace could only be secured after evacuation of American troops and bases from South Viet Nam has after eventition of the security of the securi and after recognition of the Vietnamese people's right and that of the other Indo-Chinese

The destruction of Viet Nam and the massacré of the civillan population by Amer-icans constitute one of the most monstrous crimes ever history by a country said to be civilised. The United States can by no means justify, or invoke extenuating circumstances for, its aggression against a country which has

never threa "Only by giving full political and moral support to the only by giving tun pointed and moral support to the Vietnamese patriots who are struggling for their independ-ence, that is for a sacred cause which she herself is also fighting for, can Cambo-dia scaling contribute to the dia really contribute to the peoples to settle themselves dia really contribute their internal affairs without restoration of peace.

Cambodian Foreign Ministry Protests Against U.S.-Satellite Troops' Aggressive Acts

THE Cambodian Foreign Ministry on March 4 and March 5, 1968, sent notes to the U.S. Government, Saigon puppet regime and Thai pro-U.S. administration strongly denouncing and con-demning a succession of crim-inal military attacks launched against Cambodian territory in February 1968 by the U.S. satellite troops who killed many Khmer citizens and took away many cattle and property, the Cambodian

News Agency AKP reported.
Huot Sambath, Cambodian
permanent delegate to the
United Nations, sent a note
on March 8, to the Security
Council strongly protesting
against the illegal building,
by the Saigon puppet adminisagainst the illegal building, by the Saigon puppet administration of a military post 80 metres deep into Cambodian territory in the Ong Tan area, Svay Kieng province.

The note demanded that the post be immediately demolished.

No 15 from

Muong Agan Liberated

THE Xieng Khuang (upper Lacs) people and army on February 3, 1958, neatly wiped out the Com-mands of enemy Battalions 6 and 23 stationed at Muong Ngan village, while their Ngan village, while their and were called on to surren-der, the Pathet Lao News Agency KPL reported. According to incomplete figures, in this attack the

Xieng Khuang people and army put out of action 104 troops of the pro-U.S. ad-ministration, captured 68 fire-arms of various types including one 105mm gun, one 75mm gun, one 106.7mm mortar, 2 tons of ammuni-

tion, 4,000 grenades etc... Muong Ngan village was illegally occupied by the enemy. Its 2,500 people are illegally occu-enemy. Its 2, now liberated.

Racists' Heinous Crimes in South Rhodesia

The spokesman of the Commission for Unification.
D.R.V.N. Foreign Ministry Rehabilitation of Korea.''

They have slanderously termed the South Korean people's patriotic activities provocations from North A wave of indignation has been triggered off in Africa and throughout Korea." They masterminded the so-called "U.N. Commission for Unification and Re the world by the recent crimes of the racist authorities habilitation of Korea" into demanding an end to these in South Rhodesia headed by "provocations" and ordered the Pak Jung Hi clique of Jan Douglas Smith, who, in defiance of protests from the people of Zimbabwe (South Rhodesia), the African people and progressive opinion in the quislings to send a letter calling on the 16 countries involved in the U.S. aggressive war in Korea to join in a new war against the Demoworld, executed three Zimbabwe patriots on March 6, 1968 and sentenced to death cratic People's Republic of eight others on March 7. At It is obvious that the U.S. present, there are in South Rhodesia prisons 115 patriots

under death sentence. Their lives are in great danger.

The monstrous crimes of the Smith clique have laid bare the extremely reactionary nature of the present South Rhodesian political regime which is a mere replica of South Africa's apartheid rule. After their November 11, 1965 proclamation of "independence" farce the Smith clique have resorted to brutal violence to consolidate the white colonialists' domination over the four million Africans

who make up the overwhelm-ing majority of the population in South Rhodesia. The Smith clique have promulgated many fascist laws, thrown in jail patriots and savagely stamped out the national liberation movement of the Zimbabwe

Hypocritically enough, the British government pretended that it opposed the Smith clique. But this trick cannot fool the African people, since everybody knows that the Smith clique's racist regime is an offspring of British imperialism and can exist only thanks to its collusion with the British government. The "Hang Wilson!" slogan shouted in a demonstration in

Zambia against the Smith clique shows that the African people are aware of the perfidy of the British Labour government. The Smith clique are also supported by the U.S. imperialists who are perpetrating the most odious crimes in Viet Nam and savagely suppressing Afro-Americans

Giving constant backing to the national liberation movement of the Zimbabwe people, the Vietnamese people sternly condemn the crimes of the Smith colonialist and racist regime and demand with force that the Smith clique cancel the death sentences passed on the Zimbabwe patriots and set

IS ON VIET NAM'S SIDE

leave the U.S. army. They promise them help after their desertion. The congress

also passed a resolution de-manding withdrawal of Amer-ican troops from Viet Nam.

When the U.S. destroye

Hammer was sailing into Kembla, it was circled by a

motor boat bearing slogans condemning U.S. war in Viet Nam and demanding with-drawal of G.I.'s from South

drawal of G.I.'s from South Viet Nam. On the wharves, 500 people displayed stream-ers protesting against this war of aggression. The slogar s "U.S. go home!", "U.S. get out of Viet Nam!" were

written in big letters along the wharves.

As a result of this bois

JAPAN

AUSTRALIA

P.R. MONGOLIA

N March 9, 1968, the government of the People's Republic of Mongolia issued a statement halling the victories of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people and condeming the crimes committed by the U.S. and their valets in South Vietnamese towns and cities as well as the U.S. scheme for a step-up of the war against the Vietnamese

EDANCE

N response to the appeal of the French Women's Union the French women have held hundreds of meetnave neld hundreds of meet-ings in nearly all towns and cities and countryside of France in support of the Vietnamese people's struggle against the U.S.

O N February 29, 1968, Mai Van Bo, head of the D.R.V.N. Delegation General in Paris received tion General in Paris, received representatives of the French intelligentsia: Mmes Masson, Helene Joliot Langevin, He-lene Parmelin, Elsa Triolet and Vasarely and Messrs Aragon, Michel Droit, La-cassagne, Michel Piccoli, cassagne, Michel Piccon, Edouard Pignon and Vercors,

The French delegation informed him that over 8,000
French intellectuals had
signed a letter calling on
the French intellectuals to une French intellectuals to support the Vietnamese peo-ple in their struggle against U.S. aggressors, for national salvation and observe the French Intellectuals' Day in Support of Viet Nam on Support of Viet March 21 in Paris.

WEST GERMANY

N March 7, a congress of the West German Students' Union adop: ed a programme urging G.L's in West Germany to desert the U.S. army in protest

According to this program-me, West German students will canvass American bar-racks to persuade G.I.'s to

Letters to the Editor

50,000 railway workers.

The railway strikers held

In support of the just strike

of Japanese railway workers, on the morning of March 2, about 500 students staged a

.. Your victories have been Grieved by the massacres perpetrated by the U.S. crim-...Your victories have been larger than we first thought and so details on attachs, planes destroyed or damaged etc... usual be of interest to all supporters of the N.F.L. Also can you seemed us any information within and their homes in Hue and Saigon? The recent N.F.L. victories have born a tremendous implication to the peoples all perpetrated by the U.S. criminals in your country, we learn with pleasure of the successes of the N.F.L. and those of the heroic North Viet-Let your strategists go on with their work and the U.S. criminals will have sooner or later to answer for their acts whose savagery cannot be fully described by the word "genohave been a tremendous inspi-ration to the peoples all over the world, in their fight against imperialism for polit-ical, economic and cultural freedom...

Many of my compatriots and I send you our wishes for February 10, 1968

February 14, 1968 MIKE JONES 82, Circular Drive (England)

demonstration and parade in the streets of Tokyo.

THE DHILIDDINES

N the night of March 8, about 650 Philippine students and T.U.members demonstrated against the presence of 2,000 Philoag members in the U.S. war of aggression in South Vict Nam and demanded that the N a demonstration held on March 2, Australians indig-nantly protested against American warships from Viet Nam calling at Australian Filipino government bring these men home.

PAKISTAN

THE Pakistani paper Djang (Combat) wrote on March 7:" In a village near the town of Sheikupura in West Pakistan, a young man named Nasrullat Khan was so moved Nasrullat Khan was so moved and indignant at the crimes perpetrated by the G.I.'s in Hue that he burnt himself with kerosene in a field of the village as a protest against U.S. barbarity in Viet Nam."

W.F.T.U.

terous opposition, the Australian reactionary authorities were compelled to cancel N a press conference in Moscow on March 4, 1968 Louis Saillant, Secretary General of the World Federatheir planned welcome to the American sailors of the General of the World Federa-tion of Trade Unions, read a declaration on the convening of an extraordinary session of the W.F.T.U. scheduled for April 8, 9 and 10, 1968 in Moscow.

THE Japanese press agency Toho reported that at o hour on March 2, 1968, over 340,000 railway workers throughout Japan had stage a 4-hour strike against U.S. aggression in Viet Nam and against the Japanese at thoritie's scheme to dismiss The declaration pointed out that the extraordinary session is aimed solely at strengthening and widening the solidarity of the toiling peo-ple and Trade Union organizations in the world with the Vietnamese people and con-demning more strongly the armed aggression of U.S. imperialism. Up to midday of March 2, 400 trains stood still in many stations.

TRI-CONTINENTAL COMMITTEE

The railway strikers held meetings and demonstrations in various localities and chanted the slogans "We protest against U.S. agression in Viet Nami", "No oil shipment for U.S. troops!" and "Dismantle U.S. military bases in Japan!"... N March 5, the Tri Continental Committee in Support of Viet Nam sent to progressive scientists and intellectuals in the world a letter requesting them to step up their support for Viet Nam in her struggle against U.S. The letter read in

The letter read in part:
"At present when the fate
of mankind is being decided
in Viet Nam, when the future
of culture and civilization of
mankind is being decided on
the Viet Nam battefield and
when the Vietnamese revolution is entering a decisive
stage, the immediate via
a haead of the world intelligentsia is to stee yell divisities in atage, the immediate task as is to step understand the state of the victuanses people. The Tri-Continental continuous and the state of the victuanses people. The Tri-Continental continuous the intellectuals in the world, especially in the U.S. to strongly denounce and severely condom the barbar, severely condom the barbar, resolutely demand that they put an end to their aggression in Vict Nam, unconditionally severely condom the victual continuous continuous

THE WHOLE WORLD | SWEDISH COVERNMENT'S SOUND AND DIGNIFIED ATTITUDE

and delivered there a speech protesting against the U.S.

war of aggression in Viet
Nam, and calling on the
governments of European
countries to help the Viet-

namese people secure their right to decide themselves their own destiny.

CCORDING to Western Answering a question in an interview given to Radio Stockholm, Western sources A new reports, the U.S. Government has recalalso say, the Prime Minister of Sweden, Mr Tage Erlander, declared that Mr Olof Palme! led its ambassador to Stockholm, William Heath, Stockholm, William Heath, as a protest against the position of Sweden in the Vietnamese problem. The same reports say that Washington disapproves of the fact that, over the last few months, Sweden has been openly critical of U.S. and that it is disastisfied with Sweden's granting of optimized the same of taking part in the afore taking part in the afore-mentioned meeting was a right thing to do and that "I maintain my support to what be did." Swedish Foreign Minister Torsten Nilsson bluntly told the American ambassador before return to Washington his return to Washington that "at present the view-point of the United States and that of Sweden on the Vietnamese question cannot be reconciled." Not a single representative of the Swedish Foreign Ministry was present at the airport to see Heath off from Stockholm. political asylum to many war-protesting G.I.'s. But, first and foremost, what displeases the White House is the welcome given last february by the Swedish government to Mr Nguyen Tho Chan, D.R.V.N. ambas-sador to Moscow. Swedish Minister of Education Olof Palme attended with the The Swedish press resents the U.S. administration's intention to bring pressure to bear latter a meeting in Stockholm

tion to bring pressure to bear upon Stockholm for a change of position in the Vietnamese issue. The liberal Dagens Nyheter wrote sneeringly that the number of Americans taking refuge in Sweeder was small in comparison with thousands of their draft-dodging compatriots who had fled to Canada.



The press: All war escalations are likely to force the Johnson Administration to raise taxes.

> "What else do you want? The 'Great Society' is now rising as I've promised."

> > Cartoon by Luong Khoi Nhan Dan daily

Words on the duch's coat : "Great Society", and on the rope linking L.B.J. to the duch: expenditure - taxes - unemployment."

imperialists and their Pak

VIET NAM COURIER

ROBERT PERRITEZ

64, Avenue du Léman Lausanne (Switzerland)

THE war in Viet Nam has

played on a board 500 five

One side, the U.S., South

Viet Nam and their allies,

has four times as many pieces

as the other and all the ma-

jor ones, helicopter knights,

air strike queens, even a

fleet. Its opponent, the Viet

Cong and the North Vietnam

ding pawns.

has nothing but plod-

And yet, well into the fifth

week since the start of the

Lunar New Year offensive,

the pawns still held the ini-

According to Allied intelli-

gence, as many as 10,000 ene-

my troops circled Saigon, con-

centrated to the North within

ten miles of the city limits.

Scores of skirmishes were

taking place daily almost in

the suburbs and the Amer-

ican command issued an alert

for the long-awaited second

wave of attacks this weekend.

Vietnamese dug their trenches

and tunnels to within 100

yards of the Marines' barbed

wire and slowly increased the

tempo of their bombardment

from the surrounding hills.

One anniversary that no one

this year is March 13. It was

on that day in 1954 that the

baffle of Dien Bien Phu be-

Khe Sanh and Saigon were

the areas of major concern to

the Allies, but the situation

is forgetting

at Khe Sanh

At Khe Sanh, 20,000 North

tiative all over the board.

undred miles long.

come to resemble a surrealistic

chess game

P. L. A. F. Continuous Attacks

(Continued from page 1)

took a toll of over 350 casualties from the U.S. and puppet troops including 5 puppet platoons and à U.S. company, downed or destroyed 55 planes and choppers and demolished many logistic

March 10. the P.L.A.F. artillery pounded many U.S. fuel depots at Nha Trang. The Da Nang depot built on the seashore with a pipeline was also set afire. According to Western reports, huges columns of flames and smoke rose hundreds of metres above sea level. The SAIGON...

(Continued from page 4)

R ECENT events in Saigon therefore come within the framework of a well-

established tradition. They

blinded by their cult of brutal

force, thought they were able to indulge themselves, "quietly," in heinous crimes

under the protection of a million troops armed to the

What is more, they ignore

virtually all what has hap-

pened in various districts. They have not witnessed the

enthusiastic welcome given the P.L.A.F. by the popu-

lation which served as their

guides, catered to them and

took great care of them. They have not seen the

cheerfulness which followed the formation of self-defence units, the setting up of revolutionary committees, the operation of groups of vol-untary workers, the distribution of food supplies, the enlistment in the Liberation Army, and the emergence of "nghia binh" units composed solely of break-away puppet soldiers. They have not, first of all, read the joy and pride radiating on every face. They have seen nothing, just as they have understood nothing. They have kept nothing. They have kept from Saigon only the mem-ories of the artificial glamour of the bars and buildings, fresh - looking streets, and sunny harbours. But the soul of the city is elsewhere. It glows in the eyes of its inhabitants. The eyes of Nguyen Van Troi stepping with his head high towards the execution post. The eyes of those martyrs who fall without submission. But also the eyes of the anonymous crowd in which shines the same steel glare. Saigon is rightly nicknamed the Indomitable City.

stupefied only those

many million litres of petrol. The Nha Trang depot also suffered heavy damage.

and people of Nam Bo mounted between March 5 and 10 a series of attacks against 6 urban centres and provincial capitals in the Mekong Delta: Tra Vinh, My Tho, Vinh Long, Can Tho, Sadec and Ca Mau, destroying many puppet organs. The P.L.A.F. also shelled many airfields such as Lo Te, Tra Noc (Can Tho province) and My Tho, destroying or damaging many aircraft. They also intercepted many U.S. and puppet battalions on looting raids.One of the most remark able engagements was the March 7 one, in which a battalion of Regiment 7 and another one of Regiment 8 of puppet Division 5 were wiped at about 5km from Thu Dau Mot town, north of Saigon. Meanwhile, the P. L. A. F. intercepted the U.S. and puppet battalions sent to mend Highway No 4, an important supply route link-ing Saigon to the Mekong Delta. In Ben Tre province (100 km south of Saigon), battalion 5, Regiment 10, puppet Infantry Division 7, was put out of action after suffering 310 casualties in battles taking place from March 5 to 7.



enemy admitted the loss of

KEEPING up their offensive, the armed forces

appeared dangerous at many other points as well. In the

A SURREALISTIC CHESS GAME

by Whalen Buckley (Reuter - March 2, 1968)

First Corps Area, a North Vietnamese division manœu vered near Quang Tri city, the capital of Viet Nam's northernmost province. Heavy fighting continued on the outskirts of Hue...

In the Second Corps Area, intelligence sources said, the North Vietnamese strengthened their forces in the Central Highlands. Sharp fighting took place last week the three-border region West of Dakto, five miles from Kontum and 100 miles of the south near Ban Me Thuot. The United States' fourth infantry division, with one of its three brigades assigned to the First Corps Area, was hard-pressed to contain the enemy.

South of Saigon, in the Mekong River Delta, the Viet Cong kept steady pressure on Can Tho. American troops and sailors of the mobile riverine force were engaged in exhausting and costly fighting in the week.

Of greater importance in. the long run though is the fact of defending the population centers of South Viet Nam against renewed enemy attack. The Allies have virtually abandoned the coun-

As the troops, militia and revolutionary development teams have withdrawn, pacification " search-and-destroy operations have come to a halt. One senior American staff officer said recently they have no longer had a feel for the situation in rural Viet Nam because they received little information about it.

How has it been possible for an enemy force that totaled no more than 250,000half of them lightly armed local guerrillas at the start of the offensive and which, according to Allied body counts, lost fifteen per cent of his strength in killed and captured in the past four weeks - to continue to hold the initiative against nearly 1,200,000? Perhaps the most important point is that, for all practical purposes, the enemy have the power to make themselves invisible, moving by night, adept at the arts of camouflage, hidden among the paddyfields and in the thousands of hamlets themselves, infiltrated in all likelihood into Vietnamese government intelligence services. He can mass his forces, strike against one or many weak points, avoiding the Allies' strength and then dis-

Even now, within rocket range of the capital, thousands of enemy troops are finding places to hide...





